

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 IO-03 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 SSO-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 /020 W

----- 105153

O 300717Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6790

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2544

GENEVA FOR GEORGE VEST

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, CVIS, FI

SUBJ: VISA ELIGIBILITY OF FINNISH COMMUNIST LABOR OFFICIAL

REFS: A. BOWIE-IRONS TELECON 9/28/73

B. HELSINKI 2509 (NOTAL)

C. HELSINKI 2437 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS ISSUED VISITOR'S VISA TO FINNISH COMMUNIST LABOR OFFICIAL, TOIVO TURUNEN, AFTER FOLLOWING PRESCRIBED PROCEDURES AND OBTAINING WAIVER OF INELIGIBILITY FROM INS FRANKFURT. BECAUSE OF SPECIAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE CASE EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE POSITION CONVEYED BY BOWIE AND ACCEPT TURUNEN'S ATTENDANCE AT NEW YORK CONGRESS OF PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY HELSINKI REPORTED IN REF C ON SEPTEMBER 14 THAT SIX-MEMBER FINNISH DELEGATION TO PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (PSI) CONGRESS INCLUDED ONE COMMUNIST, TOIVO TURUNEN. EMBASSY NOTED THAT IT WAS PREPARING TO REQUEST WAIVER OF VISA INELIGIBILITY FOR TURUNEN. ON SEPTEMBER 25, IN ABSENCE OF ANY COUNTER-INDICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT, EMBASSY FOLLOWED PRESCRIBED VISA REGULATIONS AND REQUESTED 212(D) (3)(A) WAIVER OF INELIGIBILITY WHICH WAS GRANTED BY TELEPHONE FROM REGIONAL INS OFFICE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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FRANKFURT. DURING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH CONSULAR OFFICER

DISTRICT DIRECTOR INS STATED THAT HIS OFFICE HAD GRANTED WAIVERS TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN PSI CONGRESS. TURUNEN'S VISAED PASSPORT RETURNED TO HIM BY MAIL SEPTEMBER 26.

2. IN BOWIE-IRONS TELECON SEPTEMBER 28 EMBASSY WAS, IN EFFECT, REQUESTED TO TELL TURUNEN HE WAS NOT WELCOME IN UNITED STATES AND THAT VISA HAD BEEN ISSUED IN ERROR. GIVEN THE PRESENT SITUATION WE FEEL THERE ARE PERSUASIVE REASONS WHY TURUNEN SHOULD CONTINUE HIS PLANNED TRIP.

3. FINNISH LABOR IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION IN WESTERN EUROPE. IT IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN WHICH COMMUNISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE TOGETHER IN A UNITED NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. THE FINNISH FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (SAK) IS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) WITH A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF COMMUNISTS IN ITS RANKS. THE SAME IS TRUE OF MANY OF THE FINNISH AFFILIATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION SECRETARIATS, OF WHICH THE PSI IS ONE. IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT TURUNEN'S ADMISSION FOR A PSI CONGRESS IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE. EXISTING VISA REGULATIONS DO NOT SINGLE OUT WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST TRADE-UNIONISTS AND IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE, IN OUR VIEW, IF FINNS THOUGHT THEIR TRADE UNIONS WERE EQUATED IN US EYES WITH THOSE OF SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE. US VISA POLICY TOWARD SOVIET TRADE UNIONISTS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF RECENT UNFAVORABLE COMMENT BY LEFT-WING PRESS IN HELSINKI.

4. THE PSI IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH HOLDS ITS CONGRESSES ON A ROTATING BASIS IN THE COUNTRIES OF ITS VARIOUS MEMBER UNIONS. TURUNEN IS PLANNING TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AS A MEMBER OF THE FINNISH UNION OF MUNICIPAL WORKERS AND SALARIED EMPLOYEES (KTV) WHICH IS THE FINNISH AFFILIATE OF THE PSI. THE KTV IS FIRMLY CONTROLLED BY THE FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. TURUNEN, WHO RESIDES IN NORTHERN FINLAND CITY OF OULU, IS IN A DEFINITE MINORITY ON THE KTV'S EXECUTIVE BOARD. HE IS AFFILIATED WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY BUT HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE IN PARTY POLITICS. HE SPEAKS ONLY FINNISH AND IS NOT CONSIDERED BY THE EMBASSY TO BE IN ANY WAY A SECURITY RISK TO THE UNITED STATES. HIS ONLY PURPOSE VISITING THE UNITED STATES IS TO ATTEND THE PSI CONGRESS AND TO DO SOME SIGHTSEEING. HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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RECEIVED BY AFL-CIO OFFICIALS OR TO REQUEST FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

4. TO REVOKE TURUNEN'S VISA NOW, OR DENY HIM ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES, WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE BROAD NEGATIVE RAMIFICATIONS FOR UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN FINLAND AND EVEN IN EUROPE GENERALLY. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT ADMITTING TURUNEN TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD SET A PRECEDENT FOR VISITS BY OTHER COMMUNIST LABOR

OFFICIALS. TURUNEN IS, AFTER ALL, PLANNING TO ATTEND A MEETING OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, WHICH HAPPENS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A NON-COMMUNIST TRADE UNION.

6. FINLAND IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE ISSUES OF FREER MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS. AT A TIME WHEN THE CSCE IS MATTER OF GREAT PUBLIC ATTENTION THE TURUNEN CASE COULD BE USED TO PORTRAY THE UNITED STATES IN AN UNFAVORABLE LIGHT AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO REACH THE AGREEMENTS WE WANT IN GENEVA.

7. THE EFFECTS OF DENYING TURUNEN ENTRY WOULD DAMAGE OUR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE KTV AND WITH THE FINNISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE. IT WOULD GIVE THE COMMUNISTS A TAILOR-MADE PROPAGANDA ISSUE AT A TIME WHEN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN THE FINNISH LABOR MOVEMENT ARE ON THE VERGE OF CONSOLIDATING THEIR CONTROL OF THE SAK AND WHEN THE COMMUNISTS HAVE LOST FACE BECAUSE OF THEIR STAND ON DOMESTIC LEGISLATION LINKED WITH FINLAND'S EEC AGREEMENT.

8. MOREOVER, AFL-CIO INVITATION TO THE NEW KTV CHAIRMAN TO ATTEND THE MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION, STATE 192748 (NOTAL), ALSO FLIES IN FACE OF A DECISION TO EXCLUDE TURUNEN. WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE KTV WOULD FIND IT POLITICALLY DEFENSIBLE TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION OF ORGANIZATION HE WOULD INEVITABLY HOLD RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCLUDING A UNION BROTHER.

9. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF TURUNEN'S ATTENDANCE AT PSI CONGRESS AS PLANNED. WE WOULD TELL KTV CHAIRMAN RHIKONEN AND HIS SUCCESSOR, TO BE ELECTED OCTOBER 2, THAT TURUNEN WOULD NOT RECEIVE ANY COURTESIES FROM AFL-CIO AND THAT KTV GROUP AS A WHOLE SHOULD NOT REQUEST FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FROM

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LABOR DEPARTMENT. SINCE KTV GROUP DEPARTS OCTOBER 5 URGENT RESPONSE IS NECESSARY.
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HELSIN02544
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KREHBIEL
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973091/aaaaaabt.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BOWIE-IRONS TELECON 9/28/73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISA ELIGIBILITY OF FINNISH COMMUNIST LABOR OFFICIAL
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, CVIS, FI, (TURUNEN, TOIVO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005